

KESWICK
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1906.

KESWICK :

A. CHAPLIN, STATION STREET,

1907.



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REPORT

TO THE KESWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1906.

Vital Statistics The number of births during the past year has fallen to 86, as compared with an average of 101·3 for the last ten years, which, with the exception of the year 1897, is the smallest number on record since 1896. The deaths show a very remarkable correspondence, as to causes and ages, with those of 1905, while their number (62), corrected by the deduction of three non-residents, is less by three. And this, with a population which must be regarded as practically stationary, gives a rate of mortality of 13·92 per 1,000.

Improvement is to be noted in a reduction of the deaths from Phthisis from 7 in 1905 to 3 in 1906, but the deaths from Zymotic disease show an increase of two.

The deaths in children under one year (infantile mortality) numbered 10, and the rate per 1,000 births has risen from 102·8 to 116·27 per 1,000. Out of six illegitimate births there have been four deaths. Further details will be found in tables 1, 3, and 5.

*Zymotic
Disease*

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases was 13—Diphtheria 6, Erysipelas 3, Scarlet Fever 4. The number of cases of Diphtheria was higher than it has been for some years—1 per annum being the average—and it is difficult to explain the reason. The first three cases were reported in February, July, and August. No cause could be discovered for those in February and July, but that in August occurred in a visitor, soon after arrival, who had evidently been infected previously. The remaining three were notified in December, and beyond the presence of atmospheric conditions of cold and damp, favourable to the development of the disease, no adequate cause could be found.

Two out of the six were removed to hospital on the ground of there being inadequate home isolation, and in all—after removal or conclusion of illness—the premises were disinfected under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The bacteriological examination of swabbings from suspected throats, provided for by the Council, still proves very helpful in determining the true nature of doubtful cases, and in deciding when it is safe for those affected to be relieved from quarantine.

In the three cases of Erysipelas, the houses and surroundings were carefully looked into, but without bringing to light any insanitary condition.

The four cases of *Scarlet Fever* sprung up between the 24th and 30th of January, and were all promptly taken to hospital. Here, the first case may possibly have contracted the disease from others in the neighbourhood, the second could not be accounted for, the third was clearly infected by the second, and in the fourth no cause could be assigned.

Possibly the original cases may have escaped detection, their friends having mistaken them for measles and failed to procure medical advice.

Again there is reason to be thankful for the absolute freedom enjoyed from Typhoid Fever, and also for the absence of deaths from Diarrhœa—two facts which speak well for the health of the district

No cases of *Phthisis* (which is voluntarily notifiable) have been reported, so that it is impossible to judge accurately of the prevalence of the disease or to carry out systematically the means for its prevention. What has been done has been (1) to disinfect premises vacated by patients suffering from this disease ; (2) to make known by leaflets, supplied by the Cumberland County Council, the best means for its prevention, and (3) to continue to contribute towards the maintenance of a free bed at the Blencathra Sanatorium, thus providing for the treatment and education in preventive methods of those who occupy it, and it has not been empty throughout the year for more than a few days at a time.

A special effort has been made with the object of preventing the Schools from becoming a focus for the spread of infectious illness.

Firstly—An arrangement has been arrived at by which medical men in the district may be called upon to grant certificates of infection, or freedom therefrom, of children attending the various Schools, and it is anticipated that this may be the means of checking the spread, not only of such diseases as Scarlet Fever and Measles, but also of troublesome minor complaints such as Ring Worm, &c.

Secondly—A scheme has been formed, with the help of the teaching staff, to ascertain which of the infectious

diseases each scholar has had and is therefore insusceptible to, so that in the event of an epidemic it may be possible, with the sanction of the education authorities, merely to exclude susceptible children from school attendance with less harm to educational interests and, it is hoped, more success in checking the epidemic, than by wholesale or class closure.

Lastly—A pamphlet has been prepared and distributed to parents, as well as hung up in the Schools, setting forth the main facts associated with the various infectious illnesses of childhood.

*Water
Supply*

The Water Supply has continued amply sufficient and of excellent quality throughout the year.

The reservoirs at Millbeck, Underscar, and Ormathwaite have been cleaned out ; a new main has been laid from Vicarage Hill to Crossings Bridge in order to supply Portinscale from the Millbeck reservoir, and a number of new services laid to houses in various parts of the district, while, in order to safeguard the gathering grounds from possibility of future pollution, the Council has wisely decided to protect them by Act of Parliament, for which application is about to be made.

*Sewerage
and
Sewage
Disposal*

The new sewer through the Fitz Park to the Keswick Hotel and Railway Station has been completed and another one laid from Crossings Bridge to Vicarage Hill, by which means the possibility of nuisances arising from cesspools in these districts is avoided, and much imperfectly treated sewage prevented entering the river. An inspection chamber and manhole have been built on the Heads road sewer, and a hydrant placed there to facilitate its flushing.

The new disposal works are rapidly approaching completion, and, in the meantime, pains are being taken to cause the old works to yield the best results of which they are capable.

While much has been done to improve the surface and drainage in different parts of the district, the condition of Museum Square and Woolpack Court is still very defective and insanitary, and the nuisance and danger to health caused by the dust of motors and other vehicles during the summer months demands attention with a view to adopting the best means for its prevention during the coming season.

The slaughter houses have been regularly inspected and found very clean and in good order, and no diseased carcase has been discovered.

The common lodging houses also have been found in a fairly satisfactory condition, but they are structurally imperfect, and in one case it was found that five persons had been allowed to sleep in a room only licensed for four.

The Veterinary Inspector still continues to make his quarterly visits, and his reports upon the condition of cow-sheds and cattle have been uniformly favourable.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act, inspections continue to be made of factories, workshops, and workplaces. The chief defects found were (*a*) in the sanitary accommodation, 3; (*b*) want of ventilation, 2; (*c*) want of lime-washing, 1; (*d*) number of workers not posted, 1. Four new names have been added to the list of workshops, bringing up the total to 36.

I am indebted to Mr. A. Mitchell-Dawson for the following record of the rainfall during the year, which is considerably in excess of the year before, and to Mr. H.

Swinburn for that of the sunshine, which, in spite of the heavier rainfall, is rather better than in 1905 :—

RAINFALL IN 1906.

The gauge funnel is 5in. in diameter, it is placed 7in. above ground, and 267ft. above sea level.

Month	Total Depth.		Greatest fall in 24 hours			No. of days with .01 or more recorded.	
	Inches.		Inches.		Date.		
January ...	9'13	...	1'45	...	28th	...	28
February...	4'26	...	'86	...	10th	...	18
March ...	4'04	...	'61	...	15th	...	20
April ...	1'34	...	'35	...	21st	...	11
May ...	6'37	...	'97	...	19th	...	24
June ...	1'82	...	'61	...	26th	...	10
July ...	2'79	...	'66	...	18th	...	17
August ...	5'59	...	1'07	...	2nd	...	22
September	1'65	...	'41	...	13th	...	9
October ...	8'07	...	1'53	...	27th	...	28
November	4'77	...	'84	...	2nd	...	21
December	4'19	...	'67	...	5th	...	24
<hr/>							
Year	54'02						232

Average here for past 34 years, 58'740in. on 206'764 days.

SUNSHINE FOR 1906.

	Hrs. Min.		Days.	
January	17	50	...	12
February	72	10	...	22
March	104	20	...	27
April	182	5	...	27
May	78	25	...	23
June	233	10	...	30
July	200	55	...	30
August... ..	157	5	...	29
September	189	40	...	30
October	51	20	...	25
November	40	50	...	19
December	47	15	...	16
<hr/>				
	1375	5		290

Average for past four years, 1270 hours upon 277 days.

WHITE MOSS SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

This hospital has fortunately not been occupied, but has been thoroughly equipped for the immediate reception of cases if required.

It was with regret that the K.U.D.C. felt compelled to appeal against an order of the Cumberland County Council by which it was proposed that this hospital should be made to serve a wider area than the Keswick Urban District. The chief grounds upon which this appeal was made were (1) that the order would involve the bringing of small-pox into this district from without, and (2) that it would take the complete control out of the hands of this Council, and so possibly lead to difficulty and delay in the immediate isolation of cases, upon which so much depends. The result is awaited with some anxiety.

WHINLATTER HOSPITAL.

The hospital has again been instrumental in checking what might have proved a severe outbreak of Scarlet Fever had it not been for the prompt isolation of early cases thus afforded. Four cases admitted in January were detained for an average of 41 days each, while two of Diphtheria admitted—one in February and one in July—were discharged after 44 and 26 days respectively. All these ended in recovery. By special arrangement, one case of Scarlet Fever was admitted in December from beyond the district, and still remains under treatment. Trained nurses have, as usual, been employed. Medical practitioners have always attended their own patients. The same caretakers are, fortunately, still in office.

In consequence of certain alterations in management which have taken place since the hospital was opened, it has been found necessary thoroughly to revise and reprint the rules and diet tables.

The building itself is kept in good repair; two new windows have been fixed in the back kitchen; all the wards, bathrooms, lavatories, and rooms belonging to the staff have been re-coloured and painted, while the domestic hot water supply, installed early in the year, is found to fill a long felt want.

In response to an inquiry from the Cockermouth Rural Council, as to the possibility of making provision for the reception of cases from their district, it was decided to offer two beds at an annual standing charge of £15 per bed, plus the extra expenses connected with each case, which beds were to be used only by inhabitants of the Ancient Parish of Crosthwaite. Unfortunately, it was a *sine qua non* with the Cockermouth Rural Council that Bassenthwaite should also be included, and as our primary consideration was the protection of the Keswick Urban District from danger of infection nearer home, for which two beds seemed barely adequate, no agreement could be arrived at. It is hoped, however, that at some future date the question may be reconsidered with practical results.

Your obedient servant,

J. R. BURNETT, M.O.H.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1906 and Previous Years.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Num-ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Num-ber.	Rate.*
				Num-ber.	Rate per 1,000 Births regist'ed	Num-ber.	Rate.*					
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	4451	105	23.59	17	161	63	13.45					
1897	"	84	18.87	6	71.42	38	8.53	1				
1898	"	101	22.69	9	99	64	14.60	4				
1899	"	113	25.38	7	61.95	62	11.67	4				
1900	"	99	22.24	15	151.51	78	15.27	6				
1901	"	102	22.91	16	156.86	59	13.25	1	0			
1902	"	89	19.99	7	78.65	59	13.25	5	3	1	57	12.8
1903	"	119	26.73	18	151.26	67	15.	3	3	0	64	14.37
1904	"	94	21.11	11	117.02	63	14.15	2	0	0	63	14.15
1905	"	107	24.03	11	102.8	65	14.6	6	3	2	62	13.92
Averages for years 1896-1905	4451	101.3	22.75	11.7	115.14	61.8	13.37	3.5	1.8	.75	61.5	13.81
1906.	4451	86	19.31	10	116.27	65	14.6	5	3		62	13.92

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made are given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres }
(exclusive of area }
covered by water). }
Total population at all ages, 4,451..... }
Number of inhabited houses, 900 }
Average number of persons per house, 4.49 }
At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
Mary Hewetson Cottage Hospital.	Whinlatter Hospital for Infectious Diseases. White Moss Hospital for Small-pox. Workhouse Hospital at Cockermouth. County Lunatic Asylum. Cumberland Infirmary. Silloth Convalescent Home. Home for Incurables (Carlisle). Edinburgh Infirmary.
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.	

TABLE III.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the
Year 1906.**

Notifiable Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up-wards	
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria	6		1	4		1		2
Membranous croup...								
Erysipelas	3				1	1	1	
Scarlet fever	4	1	1		1	1		4
Typhus fever								
Enteric fever								
Relapsing fever								
Continued fever								
Puerperal fever								
Plague								
Phthisis (voluntary)..								
Totals	13	1	2	4	2	3	1	6

Isolation Hospital, Whinlatter, Cockermouth Rural District, provided by the Keswick Urban District Council.

Small-pox Hospital, White Moss, Cockermouth Rural District, provided by the Keswick Urban District Council.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and ages at, Death during Year 1906.

Causes of Death. I	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Small-pox								
Measles								
Scarlet-fever								
Whooping-cough	2	1	1					
Diphtheria and Mem- branous croup	1		1					
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
{ Enteric								
{ Other continued...								
Epidemic influenza								
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa								
Enteritis								
Puerperal fever								
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases	2	1			1			
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3				1	2		
Other tubercular diseases	2	1				1		
Cancer, malignant disease	5					3	2	1
Bronchitis	1	1						
Pneumonia	6	1	3			1	1	1
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs								
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of Liver								
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	1	1						
Diseases and accidents of parturition								
Heart diseases	12				2	3	7	1
Accidents	3			1		1	1	2
Suicide								
Apoplexy	4					1	3	
Marasmus	4	3	1					
Convulsions	1	1						
All other causes	15				1	1	13	
All causes	62	10	6	1	5	13	27	5

TABLE V.**Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.**

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1—2 Months	2—3 Months	4—5 Months	5—6 Months	7—8 Months	10—11 Months	Total Deaths under One Year	
Common Infectious Diseases	{	Small-pox .. ..	...											
		Chicken-pox ... ..	...											
		Measles ... ..	...											
		Scarlet Fever... ..	...											
		Diphtheria ; Croup ... ..	...											
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	{	Whooping Cough ... ..	...					I						I
		Diarrhoea, all forms ... ..	...											
		Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis {													
		Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh {													
Wasting Diseases.	{	Premature Birth ... ..	...	I			I							I
		Congenital Defects ... ..	...											
		Injury at Birth ... ..	...											
		Want of Breast-milk, Starvation {													
Tuberculous Diseases	{	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...		I		I		I	I				3	
		Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...								I			I
		Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica {													
		Other Tuberculous Diseases...	...												
Other Causes.	{	Erysipelas ... ..	...											
		Syphilis ... ..	...											
		Rickets ... ..	...											
		Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...								I				I
		Convulsions										I		I
		Bronchitis			I	I								I
		Laryngitis												
		Pneumonia											I	I
		Suffocation, overlying	...												
Other Causes ... ..	...													
				I	I	I	3	I	I	2	I	I	I	10	

Population—Estimated to middle of 1906—4451.

Births in the year { legitimate, 80
 { illegitimate, 6

Death in the year of { legitimate infants, 6
 { illegitimate infants, 4

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 65.

